

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously presented). A method of approving a document comprising:
storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document;
advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;
allowing the approver to review the document;
prompting approval by the approver;
recording the date of approval; and
recording the approved document.

2 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of generating an approval log.

3 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 2 further comprising associating the approval log with a unique file record.

4 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising processing the approval log into an XML file.

5 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising multiple approvers approving a document and recording each approver's approval.

6 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the advising step comprises providing an email to the approver and providing a hyperlink to the document.

7 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the document is selected from a group consisting of a patent application, a trademark application, an assignment document and a power of attorney.

8 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of allowing access to the central storage area to view the approval record.

9 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising displaying approval text to the approver and storing this approval text in the central storage area.

10 – 23 (canceled).

24 (New). A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the document is an invention disclosure.

25 (New). A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising;
after said prompting approval step, an approver does not approve the document;

repeating advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

repeating allowing the approver to review the document; and

repeating prompting approval by the approver.

26 (New). A method of approving a document comprising:
storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;

advising two or more approvers that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

allowing each approver to review the document;

prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text;

recording the date of approval for each approver;

recording the approval text; and

recording the approved document.

27. (New) A method of claim as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of generating an approval log.

28. (New) A method as recited in claim 27, further comprising associating the approval log with a unique file record.

29. (New) A method as recited in claim 28, further comprising processing the approval log into an XML file.

30. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising multiple approvers approving a document and recording each approver's approval.

31. (New) A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the advising step comprises providing an email to the approver and providing a hyperlink to the document.

32. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the document is selected from a group consisting of a patent application, a trademark application, an assignment document and a power of attorney.

33. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of allowing access to the central storage area to view the approval record.

34. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising displaying approval text to the approver and storing this approval text in the central storage area.

35. (New) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising;
after said prompting approval step, an approver does not approve the document;

repeating advising an approver that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

repeating allowing the approver to review the document; and

repeating prompting approval by the approver.

36. (New) A method of approving a document comprising:

(a) storing the document in a central storage area, the storage area preventing alternation or modification of the document during the approval process;

(b) advising two or more approvers that the document requiring approval is accessible for review and approval;

(c) allowing each approver to review the document;

(d) prompting approval by each approver, said prompting step includes displaying approval text and at least one of said approver not approving the document;

(e) repeating said advising step (b);

(f) repeating said allowing step (c);

(g) repeat said prompting step (d);

(h) recording the date of approval for each approver;

(i) recording the approval text; and

(j) recording the approved document.

37. (New) A method as recited in claim 36, further comprising between step (d) and step (e), changing said document.

38. (New) A method as recited in claim 36, wherein said two or more approvers approved the same document.